

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Interview held on April 5, 2005 and for indicating that the proposed amendments appear to overcome the art of record.

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 15, and 18 are amended to clarify the claim language and to more precisely recite the features of the claims. Support for the amendment can be found at least at page 6, line 15, 17, and 25 of the specification. No new matter is introduced. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because the amendments (1) place the claims in better form for appeal if needed; and (2) do not introduce any elements requiring further search by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,809,415 to Rossmann (hereafter Rossmann) in view of U.S. Patent 6,148,323 to Whitner et al. (hereafter Whitner). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rossmann is directed to a method and architecture for an interactive two-way data communication network. Whitner is directed to a system and method for managing the execution of system management using a task manager. However, as agreed upon during the Interview, Rossmann and Whitner, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest “retrieving ... tool definition ... wherein the tool definition specifies a role that contains the requested tool; checking if the user is assigned with the role containing the requested tool, wherein the user is authorized to run the requested tool only if the user is assigned with the role containing the requested tool on all of the nodes,” as recited in amended claim 1 (emphasis added). Claim 1 has been amended to more precisely recite the features of the present application. None of the references disclose or suggest role-based authorization. Since the cited references, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest all of the features of amended claim 1, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-14 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claim 1 and for the additional features they recite.

With respect to claim 15, for the same reason as discussed with respect to claim 1, Rossmann and Whitner, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest “wherein the tool definition specifies a role that contains the requested tool, wherein the SCM module checks if the user is assigned with the role containing the requested tool, wherein the user is authorized to run the requested tool only if the user is assigned with the role containing the

requested tool on all of the nodes," as recited in amended claim 15 (emphasis added).

Therefore, claim 15 is allowable.

Claims 16-17 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claim 15 and for the additional features they recite.

With respect to claim 18, for the same reason as discussed with respect to claim 1, Rossmann and Whitner, individually and in combination, do not disclose or suggest "retrieving ... tool definition ... wherein the tool definition specifies a role that contains the requested tool; checking if the user is assigned with the role containing the requested tool, wherein the user is authorized to run the requested tool only if the user is assigned with the role containing the requested tool on all of the nodes," as recited in amended claim 18 (emphasis added). Therefore, claim 18 is allowable.

Claims 19-20 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claim 18 and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt examination and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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